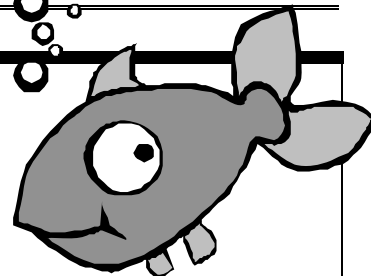


# SNAPPETS



Stadium Snappers AUSSI Masters Swimming Club, PO Box 532, Claremont 6910

January-February 2008

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Reflections on my years as President - 2006/2007

As a club we achieved many good things but in some aspects we slipped back a little.

- The Club put a proposal to MSWA for the introduction of a Two Million Metre badge. This was agreed by the National Board.
- We introduced a new Club initiative in the Swim Around Australia Project. We are on the homeward leg and are just west of Esperance. The aim is to return to Perth in time for the World Masters in April.
- We continue to subsidize the training of our coaches to develop their skills.
- And we've all challenged ourselves. We've swum hard to try to produce our best plus we've encouraged others and enjoyed each others' company at the many swimming and social events.

At the end of 2007, we had 83 members and improved our male to female ratio, which may mean we can field more relay teams in BACCs in the future, so we are more competitive as a club.

We dropped back to 5<sup>th</sup> in the State results of the National Aerobic Trophy from a previous often 2<sup>nd</sup> place. This is something we can try and address in 2008. I hear the day group has already started aerobic swims in earnest so maybe we can regain our 2<sup>nd</sup> position placing.

Most important to me is the wonderful camaraderie within the club. Members encouraging and supporting other members by timing, bringing afternoon tea, volunteering to help do jobs around the club like sitting at registration tables, encouraging and praising swimmers for doing their best whatever that level is, and being genuinely interested in others' successes. It's that support that makes our club unique and such a wonderful club to belong to. It was a privilege to be asked to be President. It was a privilege to serve and it will be a privilege to hand over to the next person.

Most people, it seems to me, including myself, think that others always are more capable and would do a better job than ourselves. But everyone brings something unique to a position and is an asset in different ways, so do what you can and do it to the best of your ability.

The progress and running of a club depends on the generosity and hard work of individuals within the club. I would like to thank some of those members.

Firstly thank you to the Management Committee members for their hard work during the year. As is usual some committee members are retiring from their jobs, some are swapping jobs and some will be coming onto committee for the first time.

Four committee members are retiring:

**Merilyn**, who has been an extremely thorough, articulate and diplomatic secretary and a wonderful person to work with over the last two years. She was night captain in 1999, secretary 2000/2001, PR/Membership – 2002 and 2003 and secretary again 2006 and 2007. (What I want to know is what happened to '04-'05?). To me being secretary is the busiest job on any committee.

Merilyn has handled all the correspondence and written all the letters on behalf of the club. She is very articulate. Has a way of writing in just the right manner and deal with issues in just the right way. Some of these letters I have been fortunate enough to put my name to which has the advantage of making it look like I also am articulate. That's one of the perks of being President.

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She also maintained our trophy cabinet that is outside the entrance to the fitness centre and our new noticeboard, which was made by Geoff Barnard and introduced during the year.

I don't know how but if I want to know any information which I have invariably forgotten I ask her and she can find the answer. Her filing system must be fantastic. She has been a wonderful support and I wouldn't have been able to do my job without her.

**Kim** was night captain for 2006 and 2007. Even though work for her has become busier and she often doesn't get to swim herself on a Tuesday night she comes down to the pool to pass on information and check everything is running smoothly. She has worked out the relay teams for BACCs, which is a huge job and made all the more difficult if people don't turn up on the day. Sometimes she will be sitting away from the rest trying to rework teams, having no chance to think about her own swims. Kim also competently handled the job of Meet Director for our BACC.

**Jeannine**, for the last 2 years, was responsible for PR/Membership. She sought promotional opportunities for the club, and wrote articles for Different Stokes and newspaper promotions. She leaves committee to travel. I hope when the travel bug has been satisfied she will consider returning to a committee position.

**Deirdre** was secretary for 2002 and 2003 and social convener 2006 and 2007. She led an enthusiastic and hard working group in organising all the club's social events, golf days, film nights and the food for our BACC and 1500m hosted swims, our beach breakfast and Christmas picnic.

A special thanks also to:

**Sue** for the wonderful job she has done with the *Snappets*. She will be a hard act to follow. She also put together 2 successful grant applications

- a) The first one from Healthway. The subsequent sponsorship helped subsidize swimmers to attend the coaching clinics run by Kareena Preston.
- b) The latest one from the Commonwealth Govt. was a Volunteer small equipment grant and enabled us to purchase a laptop computer and carry case. The laptop can be brought to the pool where swim results can be typed in.

**Tricia** for working on the MSWA board as Director of Development and Director of Swimming and for liaising with Challenge Stadium for lane bookings. Tricia also analysed the diary and kept records of attendances for the last five years.

**Thank you to our Coaches: Eleanor**, who will be running extra weekend training sessions leading up to the Worlds; **Gail, David, Merilyn, Tricia, Lillian** and **Sue**.

**Thank you to our Captains - Margaret Watson** and **Kim Klug**.

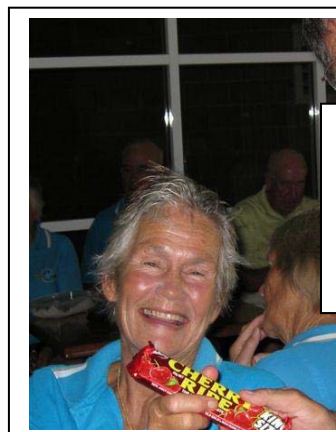
And special thanks to all the other club members who have contributed in a special way: **Patrick Carden** our prudent Treasurer, **Geraldine** as Safety Officer, **Barbara** as committee member, **Robyn** who has worked with MSWA to organize the swim events program; **Lillian** as MSWA records officer; **David** who is chairing the meetings to organize the World Masters Swim; **Pat Byrne** – assistant treasurer; **Margaret Watson** for collating and maintaining the club archives and being our unofficial club photographer; **Margaret Somes** – for organizing the hampers; **Geoff Marsland** and **David Watson** – who always offer to take on the role of our cooks at our social and club events; **Colin Beaton** who organizes the Day groups afternoon \$10.00 'raffle' ... and to all those who help in a myriad of small ways.

We are very lucky to have so many people within the club who are capable and willing to work on committee and behind the scenes.

Pamela Walter – Outgoing President of Stadium Snappers

## Our sponsors

*Stadium Snappers values the support we receive from our sponsors.*



**Why is Audrey smiling?**

**See page 5**

## 2007 OFFICE BEARERS

### Management Committee

**President** Sue Colyer  
**Vice President** Barry Green  
**Secretary** Barbara Stuart  
**Treasurer** Patrick Carden

**Captains** Kim Klug/Robyn Wilson  
 Marg Watson

**PR & Membership** Richard Diggins  
**Social Organiser** Geraldine Klug  
**General Member** Julianne Crowley  
**General Member** Peter Williams

### Other Officers

**Recorder** Pamela Walter

**Assistant Treasurer** Pat Byrne  
**Coaches** Eleanor Parsons, Tricia Summerfield,  
 Lillian Hadley, Marilyn Burbidge  
 David Corney, Gail Parsons, Sue Colyer

**Hon. Auditor** Bernie West

## SNAPPERS IN THE POOL

For those interested in numbers, I have been counting pool training/event attendance from our club diary for the past five years, 2003 to 2007. This year I have been helped by all the 'Dereks' who have kindly tallied daily attendances; my thanks.

### Key data

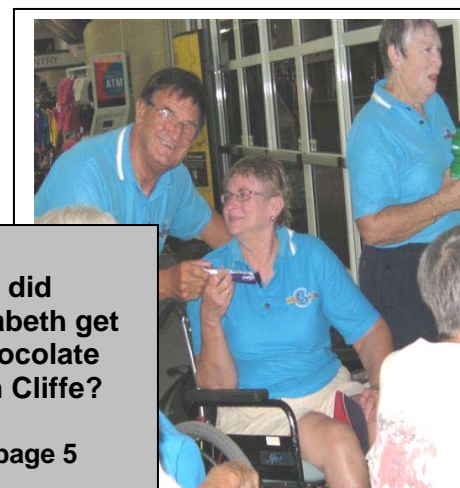
Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Membership</b>	99	84	72	79	83
<b>Attendance</b>					
Annual total	3883	4112	3796	4238	4404
Average monthly (12)	324	343	316	353	367
Average weekly (52)	75	79	73	81	85
Average daily (365)	11	11	10	11.6	12
Average per member	39	49	53	54	53
Highest - one session			37 (Wed)	37 (Wed)	40 (Fri)
<b>Monthly Averages</b>					
Tuesday	56	48	37	44	39
Wednesday	113	104	103	111	126
Thursday	24	28	16	29	25
Friday	102	107	97	108	119
Saturday	32	30	25	26	21
Sunday	22	26	25	28	29

Since a dip in numbers in 2005, membership and attendance have steadily recovered. Average number of swims per member is consistent. It is important to note that during this five year period participation in ocean swimming has also grown steadily impacting on weekend pool swims in summer; these figures represent pool swims only.

Not many Monday swims went into the diary this year and whilst there are no booked lanes for this session, it would be useful if numbers could be recorded – perhaps a guesstimate could be entered on Wednesdays when the cage is open. Knowing how many times Snappers pay their entry fee to swim at Challenge Stadium can help the club when requesting more and improved services.

'Tricia Summerfield  
 Coach (and club statistician!)

Laugh a little every day – It's better than chicken soup. Well, that's what chickens reckon!



**Why did Elizabeth get a chocolate from Cliffe?**

**See page 5**

## ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2008

CAUTION: This list is incomplete – please check for details of club swims and BACCS at the pool. See the OWS program for details of the open water swims through until April. Please confirm all times and locations from official sources.

Date	Event	Venue
25 Jan	<b>Snappers Sculling Championship</b>	<b>Challenge Stadium</b>
26 Jan	Australia Day swim 2km	Scarborough Beach 8.00 am
26 Jan	Water Corp OWS #4 - 5km	Scarborough Beach 8.00 am
27 Jan	Water Corp OWS #5 - 10km	Scarborough Beach 8.00 am
2 Feb	Cottesloe to Swanbourne 2.2 km	Cottesloe Beach 8.00 am
3 Feb	Busselton Jetty Swim	Busselton 8.00am
9 Feb	Swim thru' Leighton 400m/1.6 km	Leighton Beach 8.00 am
<b>16 Feb</b>	<b>Club Swim</b>	<b>Challenge Stadium 1.00 pm</b>
16 Feb	Rottneet Channel Swim	Starts Cottesloe Beach 6am
<b>17 Feb</b>	<b>Beach Picnic &amp; Swim</b>	<b>City Beach (north of Oceanus café) 8.00 am</b>
18 Feb	<i>Snappers Committee meeting</i>	26 Berkeley Cres. Floreat, 7.00 pm
24 Feb	Newman-Churchlands BACC	Newman School, Churchlands
8 March	Bunbury Swim 'Thru	Leschenault Inlet, Bunbury 3.00 pm
9 March	Jetty to Jetty, Coogee – 750m/1.5 km	Woodman Point Jetty, Coogee 9.00 am
17 March	<i>Snappers Committee meeting</i>	TBA
29 March	Dale Alcock State OWS 2km	Coogee Beach
15-25 April	FINA World Masters	Challenge Stadium
21 April	<i>Snappers Committee meeting</i>	TBA
25 April	2008 FINA OWS 3 km	Barrack Street jetty, Perth

## BIRTHDAYS

### January

2 Zee Marsland  
16 Gary Steenkamp  
20 John Dishon  
22 Pat Sugars  
27 Alan Earnshaw

### February

1 Jean Beaton  
4 Deirdre Stephenson  
21 Willian Curtis  
25 Audrey Bullough

### March

6 Pamela Walter  
14 Nomai Jago  
16 Beatie Norris  
17 Brian Somes  
20 Rob Shand  
23 Geoffrey Barnard  
27 Trudy Vanderwerdt

**新年快樂!**  
**Happy Chinese New Year!**

**Gung Hay Fat Choy!**  
On 7 February 2008 begins  
the Year of the Rat.

## SOCIAL EVENTS



### Beach picnic

8 am – Games  
9am - Breakfast

Sunday 17 February 2008  
City Beach (north of Oceanus café)

**Barbeque, games and all sorts of fun  
on the beach.**

**Cost: \$10 payable by 8 February 2008**

### World Masters Swimmers

Prepare like a professional with sports and remedial  
massage sessions

#### Benefits include:

**Improved muscle efficiency and biomechanics**  
**Assistance in recovery**  
**Prevention of injuries**

**For bookings and any questions**  
contact

**Rob Collins**

(Dip of Sports and Remedial Massage)  
(Diploma of Health Science)

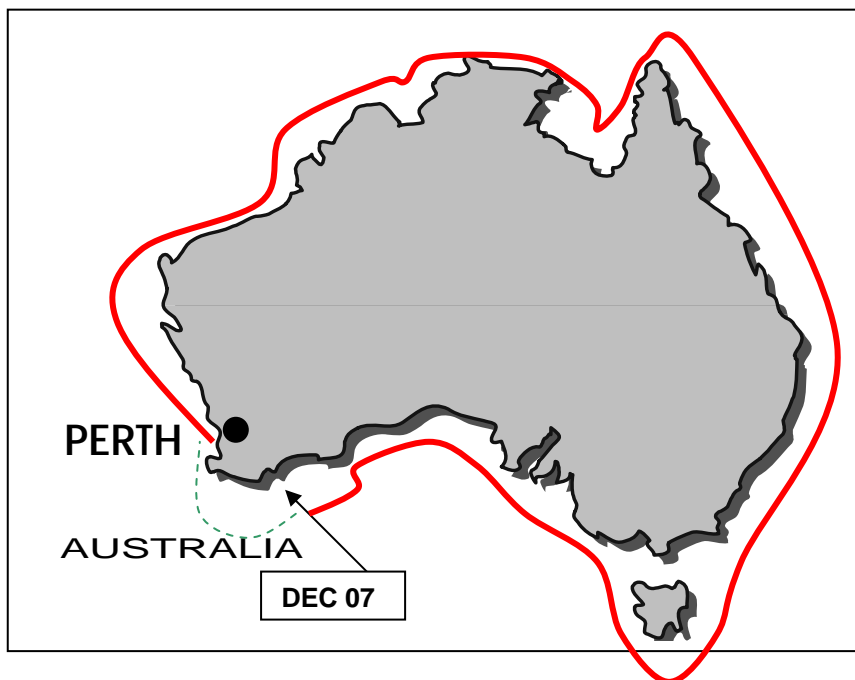
on

**93877031 or 0438698701**

## SNAPPERS IN THE WORLD'S

From Saturday 5 January until the start of the 2008 FINA Masters World Championships our Club has hired an extra two lanes, one on Saturdays (1.30 pm to 2.30 pm) and one on Wednesdays (12.30 pm to 1.30 pm) for those wanting to train in a squad. Eleanor will be present as Senior Coach at the Saturday sessions and one of the day coaches will be present at the Wednesday sessions. Hope this opportunity to increase your training helps you to work harder to achieve your goals.

## SWIM AROUND OZ 2006-2008 - Progress to 31 December 2007



It's getting closer! By the end of December we covered 13,363 km! That puts us 100 km west of Esperance

**Submit your swim distances to - Captains:** Kim Klug [kklug@westnet.com.au](mailto:kklug@westnet.com.au) or Jeannine Heinrichs [yalgoo1@aapt.net.au](mailto:yalgoo1@aapt.net.au)

## Mini Ashes Winners

Congratulations to all those who participated in the Sculling event for the Mini Ashes Trophy held on 25 January 2008. The fastest five swimmers competed initially in a time trial over 12.5 metres – with the swim-off over 25 metres. Clearly with only 3 seconds between 1st and 3rd place competition was close. Well done to all who participated and entered into the spirit of the event. The results were :-.

### 1st Place

Don Lane in a time of 49.95 secs

### 2nd Place

Audrey Bullough in a time of 51.02 secs

### 3rd Place

Elizabeth Edmondson in a time of 52.93 secs.

(Thank you to Cliffe for initiating this infamous Ashes series. Ed.)



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# RESULTS

## Open Water Swim Results – Start of the Season

Here we are again, lined up for the start of the Open Water Season. First swim attended by Snappers was the Fremantle Port Swim Thru.

If you're interested in these swims, please see your Captain. You'll find a calendar at Masters Swimming (WA) site: <http://www.mastersswimmingwa.asn.au>

### *Fremantle Ports Swim Thru 1<sup>st</sup> December 2007*

Age Group	Swimmer	Time	Age Group Place	Gender Overall Place
45-49	PARSONS Gail	31:40.01	1	41
55-59	DISHON John	37:32.15	7	83
50-54	CORNEY David	38:28.62	7	91
50-54	HOFF Philip	38:41.97	10	98
60-64	COLYER Sue	38:51.03	1	102
55-59	CROWLEY Julianne	43:05.26	2	130
65-69	BURBIDGE Marilyn	45:30.22	2	146
<b>400 Metre short course</b>				
	Marg Somes	no times recorded		
	Dee Stephenson	no times recorded		
	Audrey Bullough	no times recorded		
	Barry Green	no times recorded		
	Patrick Cooney	no times recorded		
	Marg Watson	no times recorded		
	Brian Somes	no times recorded		

**Weather** – cold raining and windy

**Conditions** – high swell with white caps

**Stinger Count** – too rough for any stingers

Being the first day of summer one would expect the sun to be shining, the birds to be chirping and the flowers a blooming. How wrong one can be, instead the sun was hiding behind the rain filled clouds, the birds had nothing to chirp about and the flowers were all blown away. Congratulations to those who braved the conditions, it wasn't really the ideal morning for an ocean swim just a hard slog for everyone. Cas ran into a spot of bother, the cold got to her and prevented her from finishing, but she's ready to try again next time.

### *Background Nonsense*



#### *What Tha!!!*

When do bathers become undies.....when you are caught in the car park with your trousers down. John thought he would quickly change from his work gear to his casual gear. But not quick enough, David and Gail drove up behind him and tooted the car horn; John jumped about 10ft in the air. Thank God he had his bathers on.

## Rottnest Swim Thru 8th December 2007

Age Group	Swimmer	Time	Age Group Place	Gender Overall Place
50-54	PARSONS Eleanor	0:27:06	1	126
45-49	PARSONS Gail	0:28:06	5	152
50-54	HOFF Phillip	0:33:41	27	377
60-64	COLYER Sue	0:34:21	4	402
55-59	CROWLEY Julianne	0:35:34	12	439
55-59	SUMMERFIELD Tricia	0:36:00	16	459
65-69	BURBIDGE Marilyn	0:36:37	3	485

**Weather** - fine and sunny

**Conditions** – quite calm with a slight chop on the home run

**Stinger Count** - low

This is a terrific day out and is one of the bigger Open Water swims available on the calendar. A mere 667 swimmers made their way over to Rottnest for the 31<sup>st</sup> Rottnest Swim Thru. Sue was ever so proud of her new cozzie with a high neck so stingers can't get in but whilst she wasn't looking one crept in the side.....ouch!!! All in all I think everyone had a nice day.

### Background Nonsense



#### What Tha!!!

Remember Superman and how he used to be able to melt steel with a laser beam from his eye. Well Eleanor has new mirror back goggles and whilst they were perched on her head managed to blind everyone around her with the sun reflecting on them. She then proceeded to burn holes in people's cozzies'. Does this mean she has Super powers and abilities???

*(Is it a fish? Is it a sub? No it's Super Swimmer!)*

## Trigg Tower to Tower Swim 15th December 2007

Age Group	Swimmer	Time	Age Group Place	Gender Overall Place
40-49	PARSONS Gail	28:59:00	4	76
50-59	CORNEY David	30:19:00	8	99
50-59	HOFF Phillip	33:50:00	13	140

**Weather** – fine but coolish

**Conditions** –pretty good

**Stinger Count** – the odd one

Only 3 little Snappers lined up for this swim. This swim is from the Scarborough Tower to the Trigg Beach Tower, always nice to swim in one direction, navigation is a lot easier.

### Background Nonsense



#### What Tha!!!

Two Snappers were seen running or should I say sprinting to the registration table. Running a tad late I think!!

## Sunset Coast Swim 6th January 2007

Age Group	Swimmer	Time	Age Group Place	Gender Overall Place
50-54	PARSONS Eleanor	40:37:00	1st 2km	57th
50-54	HOFF Phillip	51:38:00	5th 2km	62nd
45-49	PARSONS Gail	103:49:00	4th 5km	42nd
50-54	CORNEY David	116:43:00	4th 5km	50th

**Weather** – coolish SSE winds

**Conditions** - rough

**Stinger count** – too rough for stingers but there was the odd one lurking

This swim gives you a choice of 2km or 5km. It was quite pleasant swimming north with the current but when you turned to head south it was one hard slog.

### Background Nonsense

#### What Tha!!!



Most of you know that David just looooooves his golf on a Saturday afternoon. So picture this - David was a little sore after swimming 5km in rough conditions but was seen practicing his golf swing at the presentations.....as you do.

## Cottesloe Classic Mile 12th January 2008

Age Group	Swimmer	Time	Age Group Place	Gender Overall Place
50-54	PARSONS Eleanor	25:28:00	2	28
45-49	PARSONS Gail	26:08:00	7	32
50-54	CORNEY David	29:29:00	9	140
50-54	HOFF Phillip	30:57:00	12	170
55-59	CROWLEY Julianne	38:06:00	9	159

**Weather** - clear

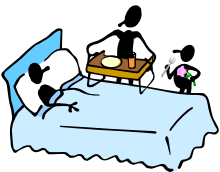
**Conditions** – pretty good

**Stinger count** - nil

Numbers were a bit down on last year with only 498 swimmers competing. It is still one of the more popular swims on the calendar. Conditions were near perfect except for a slight chop on the home run.

### Background Nonsense

#### What Tha!!!



Four years ago a competitor only swam 1599 metres before collapsing suffering a heart attack. Our own Robyn Jane Wilson stepped over this person, so focused on collecting her biscuit number. Every year at the presentations they mention this incident and every year Snappers just cringe.

PS: the heart attack person is fine and attends every year as a spectator but secretly I think he is trying to hunt Robyn down as you will see from the results she did not swim, nor did she swim last year. She's afraid!!



## HOW FAR DID YOU SWIM IN 2007?

In 2007, 54 swimmers kept a tally of their swim distance (compared to 48 in 2006). Well swum, everyone!

Kilometres	Name	Kilometres	Name	Kilometres	Name	
0-49	PLOWMAN, C	50-99	BEATON, C	100-149 cont.	SHAND, R	
	BYRNE, P		STEPHENSON, D		AITKEN, B	
	CHRISTIE, J		BARNARD, G		GREEN, H	
	EARNSHAW, A		LOUKES, M		KLUG, K	
	CHRISTIE, H		WILLIAMS, P		NORRIS, B	
	WEBB, C		BRUCE, K		SOAMES, B	
	BEATON, J		CARDEN, P		150-199	BULLOUGH, A
	HEINRICH, J		STUART, B			COLYER, S
	LANE, D		MAXTED, L			DAVIES, W
	JENKINS, A		WATSON, M			KRYGSMAN, G
	JENKINS, A	100-149	SUGARS, P	200-299	BURBIDGE, M	
	WEST, B		REES, W		KLUG, G	
	TRENAMAN, S		MILLS, E		GREEN, B	
	JAGO, N		SOAMES, M		300-399	CURTIS, W
	VAN DER WERDT		SUMMERFIELD, T			WALTER, P
	MARSLAND, Z		BROWN, C	400-499	PARSONS, E	
	JAGO, J		HADLEY, L		CORNEY, D	
	LANE, G		WILSON, R		500+	PARSONS, G

Note: Not all distances swum are included here as the final December distances were not all submitted by the end of the year!

## Aerobic Swim Awards for 2007

In 2007, 13 swimmers completed Aerobic swims, compared to 10 in 2006, 13 in 2005 and 16 in 2004.

### Aerobic club awards

**Day Swimmers** - total of max of 210 points: **Merilyn Burbidge**

**Night Swimmers** - total of max of 270 points: **Pamela Walter**

### Aerobic Star Awards

One Star award for swimming all swims in ONE stroke	Two Star awards for swimming all swims in TWO strokes	Three Star awards for swimming all swims in THREE strokes	Five star awards for swimming all swims in three mainstream strokes and the 10 swims in BU and IM
Audrey Bullough - FR Sue Colyer - FR Kim Klug BR Rob Shand - FR Margaret - Somes	Cas Brown - FR, BR William Curtis - BA, FR Elizabeth Edmundson - FR, BR Beatie Norris - FR & BA Gail Parsons - BA, IM	Merilyn Burbidge FR, BA, BR Eleanor Parsons FR, BA, BR	Pamela Walter

### Club Aerobic Support Award

June Maher - for her outstanding contribution as a timekeeper to the aerobic swim program in 2007.  
Last awarded in 2002.

Lillian Hadley  
Star Awards Manager

### Last edition

This is the final edition of Snappets that I will publish for the time being. Merilyn has temporarily offered to stand in as guest editor until the incoming Snappers committee has found its feet ... and allocated the various portfolios.

You were all gracious readers for whom I enjoyed putting together a newsletter with news of your efforts and achievements in the pool and ocean, sharing (or not) some of the jokes, and coordinating all your generous contributions. No editor could ask for more.

Best wishes for a great swimming year.

Sue Colyer

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# Back Page

## Counting sheep

### A shaggy dog story!

A shepherd was herding his flock in a remote pasture when suddenly a brand-new Audi advanced out of a dust cloud towards him. The driver, a young man in a Prada suit, Gucci shoes, Dior sunglasses and D+G tie, leans out the window and asks the shepherd: "If I tell you exactly how many sheep you have in your flock, will you give me one?"

The shepherd looks at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing flock and calmly answers: "Sure. Why not?"

The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his AT&T cell phone, surfs to a NASA page on the internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite navigation system to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photo.

The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany. Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored. He then accesses a MS-SQL database through an ODBC connected Excel spreadsheet with hundreds of complex formulae.

He uploads all of this data via an email on his Blackberry and, after a few minutes, receives a response. Finally, he prints out a full-colour, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturised HP LaserJet printer, turns to the shepherd and says: "You have exactly 1,586 sheep".

"That's right. Well, I guess you can take one of my sheep," says the shepherd. He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on amused as the young man stuffs it into the boot of his car.

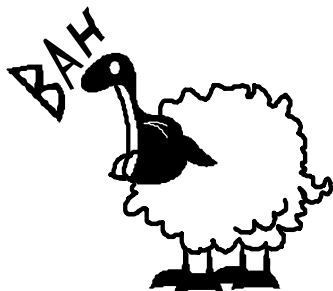
Then the shepherd says to the young man: "Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my sheep?"

The young man thinks about it for a second and then says: "Okay, why not?"

"You're a consultant," says the shepherd.

"Wow! That's correct," says the yuppie. "But how did you guess that?"

"No guessing required," answers the shepherd. "You showed up here even though nobody called you, you want to get paid for an answer I already knew to a question I never asked, and you know nothing about my business. "Now give me back my dog."



### One last chicken joke

One day the first grade teacher was reading the story of Chicken Little to her class. She came to the part where Chicken Little warns the farmer. She read, "... and Chicken Little went up to the farmer and said, "The sky is falling!"

The teacher then asked the class, "And what do you think that farmer said?" One little girl raised her hand and said, "I think he said, "Holy sh\*t! A talking chicken."

## FUNNY MOMENTS IN VIETNAM.

Recently I holidayed with my husband, Graeme in Vietnam. For the first week we also enjoyed the company of our 18 year old son who then travelled to England to start a 12 months Gap experience.

### *First a bit of background information*

Hoi An is a noted place for tailors who make custom made clothing and similarly cobblers for shoes. No matter how much you buy the assistant in the tailor's shop asks if you need anything else.

My Son is a location about an hour's drive away that has Ancient ruins.

### *The story:*

While in Hoi An, Graeme had a jacket, 2 pairs trousers, 9 business shirts and 2 pairs of shoes made and bought 14 ties. After ordering the 9 shirts the lady asked the usual question, then asked us where we were going the next day. We responded that we were travelling to My Son. Quick as a flash she asked if he needed a suit as well.

When we emailed a friend to boast of our purchases the following was his reply: "*Labor govt announces massive foreign exchange debt. Apparently huge spending by small number of Australians in Vietnam leads to spiralling debt levels. Any ideas.*"

We sent back a response. "*Sold one tie back. Debt improved.*"

We had a wonderful, interesting visit to Vietnam and I would thoroughly recommend the location to anyone.

Pamela Walter